

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1, 2, 5 and 6. These sheets, which include Figs. 1, 2, 5 and 6, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1, 2, 5 and 6. In Fig. 1 an additional lead line for the reference numeral 60 has been added to show the cushion 60 is also arranged in the middle region of the supporting plate 10. Additionally, a lead line has been added for the reference numeral 80 to show that the abrasive disk is arranged to extend all the way through. In Fig. 2 the reference numerals 60, 80 and 300 have been added, and the reference numeral 42 has been removed. Reference numeral 300 indicates the flow arrows while 28 indicates the duct. Although the Examiner has indicated that the elements 60 and 80 should be shown in a perspective view, applicants submits that it is better to show these features in a cross-sectional view (as in Fig. 2) since in a perspective view (for example Fig. 6) the cushion 60 would be covered by the abrasive disk 80, and thus would not be visible. In Figs. 5 and 6, the reference numerals 42 and 28 have been added. Also, in Figs. 5 and 6 the reference numeral 50 has been corrected to be 40.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (4)

REMARKS

The office action of March 14, 2007, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a).

Claims 1, 3 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 3 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Lee.

In connection with the examiner's objection to the drawings, applicant has submitted replacement sheets containing Figs. 1, 2, 5 and 6 as discussed previously. With these replacement sheets it is submitted that all of the features recited in the claims are shown in the drawings.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1, 8 and 9.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness pointed out by the Examiner. The longitudinal center line 22 is shown in Fig. 4. It is clearly shown that the axis 22 is not straight. As for the remaining points raised by the Examiner, applicant submits that they have been addressed by the amendments to the claims.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the reference.

Turning now to the reference, it can be seen that the patent to Lee discloses a grinding wheel for use in a grinding apparatus.

RW-174

This reference was discussed at length in the last filed amendment and those comments are incorporated herein by reference in order to avoid redundancy. The following additional comments are provided.

The Examiner refers to the element 22 of Lee as being a raised edge. However, the element 22 is a centrally located element, whereas in the presently claimed invention the raised edge 30 is at the periphery of the plate.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

RW-174

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 14, 2007

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 14, 2007.

By:


Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: August 14, 2007